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Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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20 July 1967

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Approved For Release 2002/11/13 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010100160001-1

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Chief of State Thieu and Premier Ky are reported to have agreed on a joint campaign organization to support their ticket in the September presidential elections.

The agreement apparently was reached on 13 July during a meeting between Thieu and Ky's former campaign manager, Social Welfare Minister Nguyen Xuan Phong. It reportedly calls for establishment of a central committee which will meet two or three times a week in the headquarters of an air force officer who is a Ky appointee. The meetings will be presided over by both Thieu and Ky, but are intended to convey the impression of Thieu's primacy on the ticket. According to Phong, Ky's men will head several of the central committee elements and will be the actual organizers of the campaign.

Thieu is reported [redacted] to believe that his ascendancy to the number-one position on the ticket has improved chances for the present leadership to remain in power. He is said to have told a prominent politician on 14 July that the public had come to identify Ky as a tool of the Americans and that a ticket headed by Thieu--who believes himself free of that label--would therefore have greater appeal to the electorate.

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Military Situation in South Vietnam: No significant military action was reported to have taken place in South Vietnam on 19 July. [redacted]
[redacted]

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Israel-Egypt: The Israelis are insisting on access to the Suez Canal because they believe that taking a firm position now will affect their peacetime transit rights.

Israel maintains that the cease-fire line runs down the middle of the canal, giving Tel Aviv freedom of movement along the east bank. The Egyptians contend that the east bank of the canal is the cease-fire line and have told the UN that they will have "no choice" but to open fire if the Israelis again attempt to put their small boats in the water.

On the broader transit issue, Prime Minister Eshkol stated in a press interview on 18 July that Israel is anxious to have the principle of its ships' presence in the canal recognized now in order to "establish our freedom of navigation for future reference." It thus will be difficult for Israel to agree to a plan devised by UN headquarters in which both sides would refrain from any naval or military activity on the canal.

The Egyptians also are sensitive to the long-range implications of the present dispute. Al Ahram, the semiofficial Cairo newspaper, stated yesterday that Egypt will not allow Israel in the canal "either at present or in the future."

In New York the General Assembly is reconvening today in a final effort to wind up the special session on the Arab-Israeli problem. No agreement is in sight on a compromise resolution regarding the main issues. The Latin Americans in general appear to be holding fast against Soviet efforts to water down their draft resolution, which would mention the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the termination of Arab belligerency as "expected" elements of a settlement. Given the Arabs' rigid resistance to the belligerency concept, it is doubtful that they will accept even the watered-down version of the Latin American proposal.

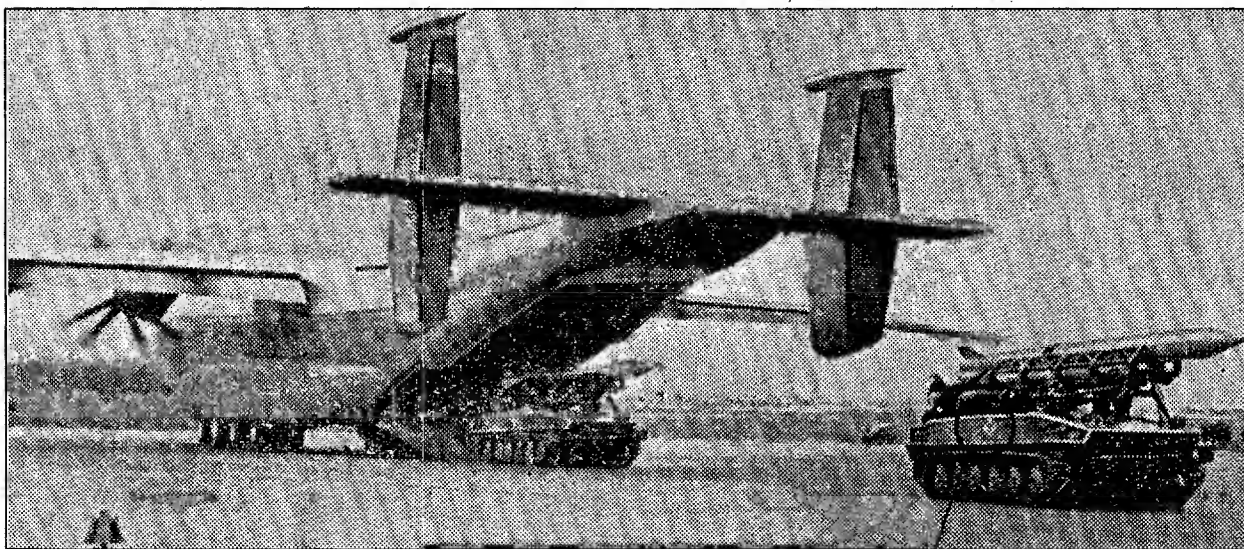
(continued)

While a possible last-minute compromise cannot be ruled out, most delegations seem resigned to a simple procedural resolution referring the whole issue back to the Security Council. If agreement can be reached on the wording of such a resolution, the emergency session should soon end. Several delegates have interpreted Gromyko's letter on 18 July to the Security Council president as a further indication that the Soviets themselves are reconciled to having the Assembly end on an indecisive note.

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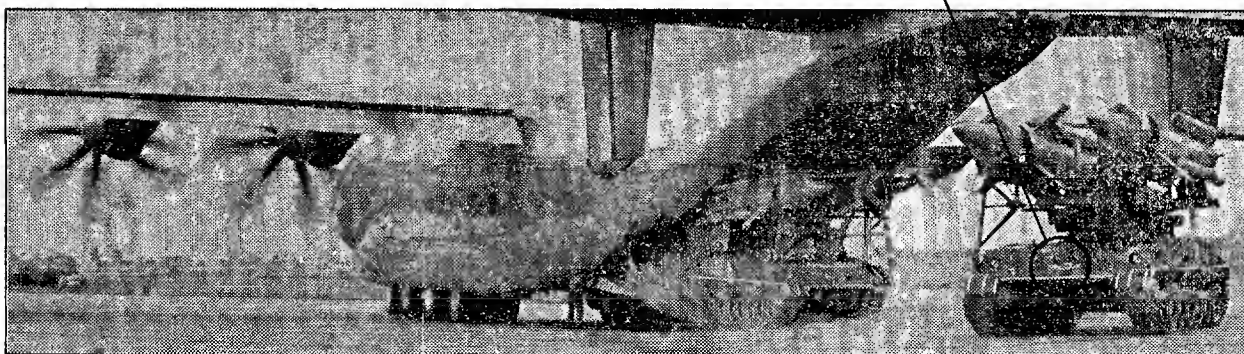
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Frog and Ganef missiles unloading from the An-22 at the Moscow air show



Frog

Airborne Forces Insignia



Ganef

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NOTES

Nigeria: The military situation in Biafra's northern border area is fluid. Both the Biafrans and the federal government claim to hold the key provincial town of Nsukka. It is likely that federal troops occupied Nsukka on 14 July, but withdrew in the face of Biafran attacks behind their line of advance. [REDACTED]

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USSR: The Soviets may intend to equip their airborne troops with tactical and air-defense missiles transported in the new An-22 aircraft. Frog tactical surface-to-surface missiles and Ganef mobile air-defense missiles with airborne forces markings were unloaded from An-22s during a demonstration at the recent Moscow air show. Heretofore, the airborne troops have not had such weapons. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the An-22, the world's largest operational transport, will be used to carry airborne troops. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] (Photos)

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